

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification by replacing paragraphs 0010 and 0012 and with the following amended versions:

[0010] FIG. 1 shows a cross-sectional view of a ski boot 1, although the invention is not intended to be restricted to articles of footwear intended for skiing. The exemplary ski boot has a shell 2 made of plastic material formed by injection molding. Within this shell is inserted an inner comfort element. This inner comfort element takes the form of a liner 3 that is removable, i.e., the liner is not permanently fixed to the shell. Generally speaking, the liner is constructed of various pieces of fabric or plastic assembled by sewing or gluing to obtain the liner 3. In the example described, the liner has a lasting sole 4, called a Strobel sole, on which the upper is sewn. The Strobel sole 4 can be a fiber-base material offering an upper surface that is not completely smooth.

[0012] The inner sole 6, also called an insole, is positioned at the bottom of the liner, in contact with the Strobel sole. It has a felt layer 7, a foam layer 8, and a fabric layer 9 covering the foam layer 8. This particular inner sole construction is not specific, and the invention can be applied irrespective of the construction of the inner sole. The felt layer 7 has a rectangular recess 10 on its lower surface, in the area of the metatarsophalangeal flexion zone. The rectangular shape is not limiting for the embodiment of the invention. However, the abrasive insert 11 is shown in the drawing figures to be the only abrasive insert affixed to the inner sole 6 and that the insert is positioned in a recess 10 in the lower surface, in this case the lower surface of the felt layer 7, of the inner sole, such recess being located in at least the metatarsophalangeal articulation area of the inner sole.